

THE PRODUCTION OF WINES DURING THE PAST CENTURY.

We condense from an interesting article which

In 1762, intense heat, very little rain, the crop excellent, and quality of wines superior. In certain localities of France, wines which, when first brought

into market for 30 livres (about 18 cents each), per measure, were worth 150 livres the following year. In 1763-'64-'65-'66 the quality was very ordinary; in 1767 and 1768 very good, but not equal to that of 1762; in 1769 very bad; 1770 fair; 1771 good; 1772-73-'74, bad; in 1775 excellent; 1776 and 1777, tolerable; 1778 good, and 1779 detestable. In 1780 and '81, fair; 1782 good; 1783 and '84, fair. 1785 was a year so abundant that in Benjauls wine fell to 20 livres for the first quality. From this period we must pass on to 1791 to find a good wine or rather a wine of an excellent quality. After this

No change worthy of note until we reach 1802. All the grapes were destroyed by hail on the 17th, 18th and 19th of May. Prices were enormously high, but disastrous to the monopolists. Soon the warm weather set in; the heat became as intense as in 1622 and 1623. The vines produced a second crop of grapes, which yielded wines called *conservats* of a very fair quality. 1803 was a year of great abundance, but indifferent quality; 1804 was an extraordinary year both as to quality and quantity. During this year the new casks were worth 24 to 25 francs each; and in those districts where the production was not greater than usual the wines were not worth more than the cost of the casks. The result was, that the vintners who had purchased their casks on credit, and could not sell their wines, preferred to return them to the coopers full of wine to be released from their obligations, but were refused as the latter also had engagements to meet.

The year 1805 gave the highest hopes of an excellent yield, but in the early part of October, a week before the vintage commenced, it snowed and hailed. The crop was made, but the wine decomposed in the cask, and in the winter that which was not spoiled turned to a yellowish white. In 1806 and 1807 the quality was superior, and kept for a long time; 1808 a great abundance; 1809, 1810, poor years; 1811, the year of the comet. The wines of this year have been greatly extolled, but they did not come up to those of 1762. At first they sold at prices sufficiently low because we had no markets; but in 1813 they attained

od to fabulous prices, and the short crops of succeeding years only tended to augment their price. The first remarkable year after 1811 was 1822. There was no winter. The vine budded in March, blossomed in May, and in August new wine was drawn. The wine was very good, but tender; it possessed no endurance. From 1822 to 1842 there was a good series of years, the most notable of which were 1827, 1833, and 1842. 1843 was of no account; the following years alternated; but from 1849 to 1856, inclusive, the crops were failures from causes already known.

The *Courier's* correspondent thinks that every quarter of a century, failures and compensation being properly set off against each other, the sums of good and bad crops would be about equally balanced. There is no question but we have paid since 1849 the full interest of the good years which elapsed between 1822 and 1842. We must only hope that we are now entering upon a better epoch.

AUSTRALIAN GOLD.

We have before us several interesting and voluminous documents, presented to the British Parliament during the past year, and ordered to be published, relative to the agriculture, mechanical industries, general resources, navigation, commerce, revenue, taxation, ship-building, &c., of Great Britain, from which we have prepared several interesting statements, which we shall from time to time present before the readers of the *Union*. The statements we present this evening exhibits the quantity of gold exported from the several ports in Australia in each year from the commencement of the gold discoveries to the end of the year 1855: the exports chiefly destined for Great Britain and colonial possessions.

| Year | Quantity of gold exported from New South Wales from the 29th May to the 31st December | Quantity of gold exported from Victoria | Value |
|----------------------------------|---|---|------------|
| 1852 | 96,273 | 1 | £2,241,000 |
| 1853 | 54,052 | 19 | £1,806,344 |
| 1854 | 64,284 | 23 | £1,808,000 |
| 1855 | 64,284 | 3 | £1,048,520 |
| Total value from New South Wales | | | £4,105,864 |

| | | | | | |
|--|-----------|--------|---------|--------|-------------|
| From Victoria, 1851. | 345,337 | ounces | 3 dwts. | 12 gr. | £2,120,884 |
| " 1852. | 1,988,526 | " | 10 " | 13 " | 36,077,640 |
| " 1853. | 2,497,728 | " | 15 " | 16 " | 42,520,000 |
| " 1854. | 2,344,000 | " | 4 " | 19 " | 41,377,740 |
| " 1855. | 2,575,745 | " | 4 " | 17 " | 56,819,000 |
| Total value. | | | | | 174,205,264 |
| Annual average during last four years. | | | | | 42,875,900 |

To the preceding statement we annex an official return of all the gold coined at the mint in Great Britain each year from January 1, 1846, to December 31, 1855:

| | |
|----------------------------------|--------------|
| Gold coined in Great Britain in— | |
| 1846. | \$21,674,550 |
| 1847. | 25,742,000 |
| 1848. | 22,530,995 |
| 1849. | 10,889,775 |
| 1850. | 7,454,181 |
| 1851. | 22,002,645 |

| | |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| 1852..... | 43,711,311 |
| 1853..... | 59,761,365 |
| 1854..... | 20,550,615 |
| 1855..... | 45,943,315 |
| Total from 1846 to 1855..... | 269,350,239 |
| Annual average..... | 26,935,023 |

THE SECOND DISTRICT OF TENNESSEE.

The following is the official vote in the second district of Tennessee for congressman:

| | |
|------------------------------|-------|
| Maynard, (know-nothing)..... | 5,558 |
| Wallace, (democrat)..... | 5,500 |

Maynard's majority..... 196

The harvest prospects throughout Great Britain and the continent are represented as most encouraging. The Liverpool V.-I. says:

"From all parts of the United Kingdom—from all parts of Europe—nay, from all parts of the world—we hear that the cereal crops were never more abundant and more promising. Even the faint rumor which reached us a little while ago from Ireland of serious distress in the potato crop seems to have died away; and everything leads us to hope, from the bounty of an all-merciful Providence, a plentiful ingathering of the fruits of the earth."

The Iowa democratic convention is to be held at Iowa City August 26th for consultation and organization, and to nominate a governor and lieutenant